



**REMARKS BY THE RESIDENT COMMISSIONER
PEDRO PIERLUISI ON THE OCCASION OF GOVERNOR
FORTUÑO'S FIRST MESSAGE ON BUDGET
*Wednesday, April 29, 2009***

I feel confident that we have a Governor who is acting with the fiscal responsibility that our people deserve.

Moments like the one we are currently living in require responsibility, sensitivity, leadership and courage on the part of our Governor. That is precisely what we have seen today with the budget proposal put forth by the government. Governor Fortuño has achieved what some thought impossible. He has balanced the government's checkbook and stimulated the economy at the same time, taking advantage of all federal and state resources at his disposal.

When we look at the entire consolidated budget, which includes federal as well as state resources, we see an increase in the contribution made by the public sector to our economy. All of the signs suggest that in a matter of months we may begin to emerge from the economic troubles that we have been experiencing.

Although the current situation is difficult, I urge all Puerto Ricans not to lose confidence in our ability to overcome this challenge. Our Governor is doing his part to ensure that progress will be felt by all our people.

<http://pierluisi.house.gov>